

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration by the Examiner is respectfully requested in light of the preceding amendments and accompanying remarks.

Claims 1 – 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as anticipated by, or in the alternative under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over WO 03/088344 to Honeywell International, Inc. (“Honeywell”). According to Example 8 of Honeywell, 5 ppm tetramethylammonium acetate (TMAA) was added to the mixture of Example 7 containing 10g tetraacetoxysilane, 10g methyltriacetoxysilane, 17g propylene glycol methyl ethyl acetate (PGMEA) and 1.5g water. Thus, the amount of TMAA is calculated to be 0.000192g ($=38.5\text{g} \times 5 \times 10^{-6}$).

Independent claims 1 and 6 have been amended to specify the amount of quaternary ammonium salt relative to the amount of the siloxane polymer. This amendment is supported by the specification at page 27 lines 9 to 12. According to the claims as amended, for example, 0.02g or more quaternary ammonium salt is added to 20g polysiloxane polymer. Thus, the amount of quaternary ammonium salt for the invention is more than a hundred times as large as that of Honeywell.

The difference in the amount of the quaternary ammonium salt demonstrates the difference in contribution or function of the quaternary ammonium salt during the reaction. According to the invention, the quaternary ammonium salt is used as a structure-directing agent so that change of the polymer configuration results in pores. See the specification at page 11, lines 1 to 11. For these reasons, the invention as defined in the claims as now presented is novel and non-obvious with respect to the cited prior art, including the Honeywell teachings.

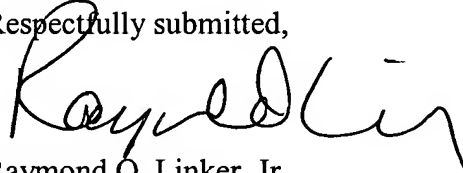
In view of the amendments and foregoing remarks, Applicant submits that all of pending Claims 1-8 are both novel and non-obvious with respect to the prior art and are now in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests that the claims be allowed. If the Examiner wishes to discuss the application or the comments herein, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned by telephone.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of

Appl. No.: 10/706,862
Amendment Dated September 16, 2005
Reply to Office Action of June 20, 2005

this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

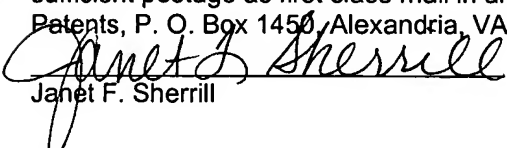


Raymond O. Linker, Jr.
Registration No. 26,419

Customer No. 00826
ALSTON & BIRD LLP
Bank of America Plaza
101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000
Charlotte, NC 28280-4000
Tel Charlotte Office (704) 444-1000
Fax Charlotte Office (704) 444-1111

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on September 16, 2005.



Janet F. Sherrill